



PRESS RELEASE

Illinois Man Sentenced to Prison for Assaulting Law Enforcement During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Friday, January 17, 2025

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of
Columbia

USADC.Media@usdoj.gov

WASHINGTON – An Illinois man was sentenced to prison today for assaulting law enforcement during the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the 2020 presidential election.

William Lewis, 58, of Burbank, Illinois, was sentenced to 37 months in prison, 24 months of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$3,761.00 in restitution by U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras. Lewis previously pleaded guilty to a felony charge assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers.

According to court documents, Lewis drove from Burbank to Washington, D.C., to attend the ‘Stop the Steal’ rally on Jan. 6, 2021. After attending the rally, Lewis made his way to the West Plaza, which was, by that time, overrun with rioters. At the West Plaza, United States Capitol Police (USCP) and Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers were attempting to maintain lines of defense and were struggling to prevent rioters from advancing further to the Capitol building.

Lewis sprayed streams of Wasp and Hornet Killer spray at multiple police officers on four distinct occasions. After depleting the can of spray, he threw it at officers. As a result of his actions, several MPD officers were forced to immediately remove themselves from the defensive line and seek treatment for their eyes.

Shortly after these incidents, Lewis ascended to the Lower West Terrace of the Capitol building. There, Lewis used a stolen police baton to smash three different panes (one quarter-moon, and two smaller square panes) of a large window immediately to the right (south) of the Lower West Terrace Tunnel.

The FBI arrested Lewis on Nov. 9, 2023, in Burbank, Illinois.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section are prosecuting this case. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois provided valuable assistance.

This case was investigated by the by the FBI's Chicago and Washington Field Offices, which identified Lewis as BOLO (Be on the Lookout) AFO (Assault on Federal Officer) #283 on its seeking information photos. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department.

In the 48 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,583 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 600 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, a felony. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

Contact

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Updated January 17, 2025

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VIOLENT CRIME

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Press Release Number: 25-27

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